LIBRARY

1, Market Hill,
CHATTERIS, Cambs.

1st January, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of
Chatteris Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1946:-

Area of Parish.....13719 acres
Estimated residents
mid 1946..... 5084
Rateable Value.....£16,520
Produce of 1d. rate.....£64
Number of Inhabited houses... 1500

The main industry of the area is agricultural with one light engineering works employing approx. 80-100 people

VITAL STATISTICS.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Births Live	97	44	53	19.07 per 1000
Legitimate	92	41	51	
Illegitimate	5	3	2	
Still births	4	3	1	Still birth rate 41.23 per 1000 births.
Legitimate	3	2	1	
Illegitimate	1	1	-	
Deaths	67	37	30	Death rate 13.17 per 1000
Deaths (infants under 1 year)	8	5	3	Rate per 1000 legitimate births 86.95

The chief causes of death were:-

Inter-Cranial Vascular Lesions.	8
Heart & Vascular.....	29
Nephritis.....	1
Cancer.....	7
Tuberculosis Pulmonary..	1
Influenza.....	3
Pneumonia.....	5

There were no deaths from infectious disease or of children under 2 years from diarrhoea.

Throughout the period under review there were practically no epidemic forms of disease. All cases were essentially sporadic. Such a condition points to a very definite general efficiency of the sanitary provisions of the town.

Death rates compare very favourably with the general death rate for England and Wales. There is good evidence that the population is in extremely good health and consequently maximum contribution is being made towards the increase of agricultural productivity.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Staff - Public Health Officers.

a. One part time Medical Officer.
One whole time Sanitary Inspector.

b. A district Nurse is provided by the Local District Nursing Association.

c. District Midwife of the County Council service and school and Maternal and Child Welfare Clinics are provided for the District.

2. LEGISLATION ADOPTED.

a. Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890 Parts III and IV.
b. Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907.
c. Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890
d. Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Byelaws are in force as to slaughter houses, public pleasure grounds, common lodging houses and new streets and buildings.

3. Pathological investigations are carried out under an arrangement with King Edward VIII Memorial Institute, Lewisham.

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided for cases requiring it. Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out by the County Health service. Infectious disease patients requiring hospital treatment have been dealt with at Cambridge Infectious Hospital. Arrangements with Ely Isolation Hospital have existed but have not been utilised.

For non infectious cases requiring hospital treatment in addition to Addenbrooke's Hospital and Peterborough Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital at Doddington is now available.

An ambulance is maintained in connection with the Hospital Sunday Fund and Contribution scheme for the transport of cases; the Red Cross have made a reserve ambulance available for the District at large in case of special emergency.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. A constant supply of water is provided by the U.D.C. to be delivered at Primrose Hill at 50 feet head under a contract with the Wisbech Water Company. The analysis shows a high degree of purity and generally adequate supply. One low level and one high level reservoir exist and have a storage capacity of 145,000 gallons. The equipment is capable of handling 350,000 gallons per day

Number of dwelling houses supplied direct	1192
Number of dwelling houses supplied by stand pipe.....	308

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. This is on a gravitational system and thanks to the situation of the town secures a high degree of uniform natural efficiency in its working. An outlying area of the town is served by a septic tank installation. This also operates efficiently.

The new housing programme involves an additional 300 houses and these are mainly situated in the southern porion of the town. It becomes apparent that the new sewerage project should be pressed on with all speed.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b2909947x

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no natural rivers or streams within the Urban area. The town is situated on a layer of Kimmeridge clay thrown up and forming high land above the fen. The rainfall in the area has always gravitated on the east and west sides into the lowlying fens. This outflow was intercepted by the artificial cuts and "rivers" made some 300 years ago when the fens were reclaimed.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. This is almost entirely on the water carriage system.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. House refuse is cleared by the Council's scavenging carts on the basis of a weekly interval with special arrangements for shops and business premises.

FOOD. All the premises of the food retailers were inspected and the conditions thereof found satisfactory. Where minor defects were found the necessary steps to remedy the defects were taken quickly.

SCHOOLS. These are all supplied with a piped water supply and the general sanitary conditions found to be well kept and quite satisfactory.

NUTRITION. Broadly speaking the limitations of quantity and quality of available rationed foods have had an adverse effect on the nutrition of people at large least so in those entitled to special rations and has diminished powers of endurance and power of recovery from illness and resisting disease. Each year necessitates the closer study of the comparative values of various articles of available food if the health of the community is to be maintained at its best.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The year was marked by freedom from epidemic diseases Sporadic cases occurred as follows:-

Scarlet fever.....	14
Pneumonia.....	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	6
Other Tuberculosis.....	2
Measles.....	3
Diphtheria.....	1

HOUSING. Preparatory work is going on slowly. Site development and two house building contracts are now in progress.

Appended below are details of progress at 31st Dec.1946.

E.A.Warth: Site preparations 85% complete
Houses out to contract.... 40
Commenced.. 28
None were completed.
The ten prefabricated houses are 90% complete

Slow progress with the housing programme is having an increasing repercussion on the already overcrowded conditions of the town. The demobilisation has also increased the effect.

(Signed) R. E. Nix.

Medical Officer of Health.